

Amendments to the claims

This listing of the claims replaces all other listings of the claims pending in the present application. Please cancel claim 5 and amend claims 1 and 6 as follows:

1. (currently amended) An anisotropic nanoscale structure formed ~~form~~ from at least one element selected from groups IA and IIA of the periodic table and at least one element selected from groups IIIA, IVA, and VA, wherein the structure is a nanotube, nanorod or nanofibre.
2. (original) A nanoscale structure as claimed in claim 1, wherein, the nanostructure is inorganic.
3. (original) A nanoscale structure as claimed in claim 1, wherein the element of group IA is lithium, sodium or potassium.
4. (original) A nanoscale structure as claimed in claim 3, wherein the element of group IA is lithium.
5. (canceled)
6. (original) A nanoscale structure as claimed in claim ~~5~~ 1, wherein, the structure is a nanotube.
7. (original) A nanoscale structure as claimed in claim 1, wherein the non-metallic element selected from groups IIIA, IVA, and VA is one or more of boron, carbon, silicon or nitrogen.
8. (original) A nanoscale structure as claimed in claim 7, wherein the non-metallic element is nitrogen.
9. (original) A nanoscale structure as claimed in claim 1 in which some of the metallic element

of group IA and IIA has been replaced with another element selected from hydrogen and/or a transition metal.

10. (original) A nanoscale structure as claimed in claim 2, wherein the nanostructure is a nanotube in which the hollow core has been filled with a metal to form a metallic nanowire.

11. (original) A nanoscale structure as claimed in claim 2, wherein chemical modification of the nanostructure has been performed in order to enhance or tailor the properties of the nanostructure.

12. (original) An anisotropic nanoscale structure based on lithium nitride (Li_3N).

13. (original) Use of an anisotropic nanostructure according to claim 2 in an ionic conductor/battery component, a hydrogen storage device, for templating nanowires, an electrical device, catalysis, a flat display screen, or as a structural member.

14. (original) A process for the production of a nanostructure as defined in claim 1, the process comprising exposing the metal of Group IA or IIA to a gaseous source of the element of Group IIIA, IVA, or VA, in a sealed heated chamber at a pressure between atmospheric pressure and a pressure of 10^{-2} Pa (10^{-4} torr), wherein the upper limit of the temperature is not more than 1200 °C, and wherein said chamber comprises a cold finger into which water is placed.

15. (original) A process as claimed in claim 14, wherein the upper limit of the temperature is defined by the temperature of decomposition of the compound.

16. (original) A process as claimed in claim 14, wherein lithium is heated in the presence of nitrogen in a sealed vessel until the pressure in the vessel is constant to form a lithium nitride nanostructure.

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17. (original) A process as claimed in claim 14 wherein exposing the metal of Group IA or IIA to a gaseous source of the element of Group IIIA, IVA, or VA is further in the presence of a transition metal.

18. (original) A process as claimed in claim 15, wherein lithium is heated in the presence of nitrogen in a sealed vessel until the pressure in the vessel is constant to form a lithium nitride nanostructure.